POLYMORPHISM

INTRODUCTION :-

The phenomenon of occurance of more than one kinds of individuals in single organisms having different form and function is called Polymorphism.

- Polymorphism is essentially a divisio of labour.
- Each individuals of the Colony ~~thus possesses two types~~ is called zooids
- A Polymorphic Colony thus possesses two types of zoids i.e. Polyp and Medus and its modified forms.
- Zooids in the Colony may be either dimorphism, trimorphism, Polymorphis
- Obelia has following types of zooids

1. POLYPOID ZOOIDS :-

- These includes following types of zooid.
  - i) Gastrozoids
  - ii) Dactylozooids
  - iii) Gonozoids.

i) GASTROZOOIDS :-

- It is nutritive or feeding individual of Colony.
- It is tubular or saccular structure having mouth.
- It has a long, Contractile hollow tentacle
- Tentacles bears numerous lateral Contractile branches called tentilla.
- Tentilla Contains nematocyst.

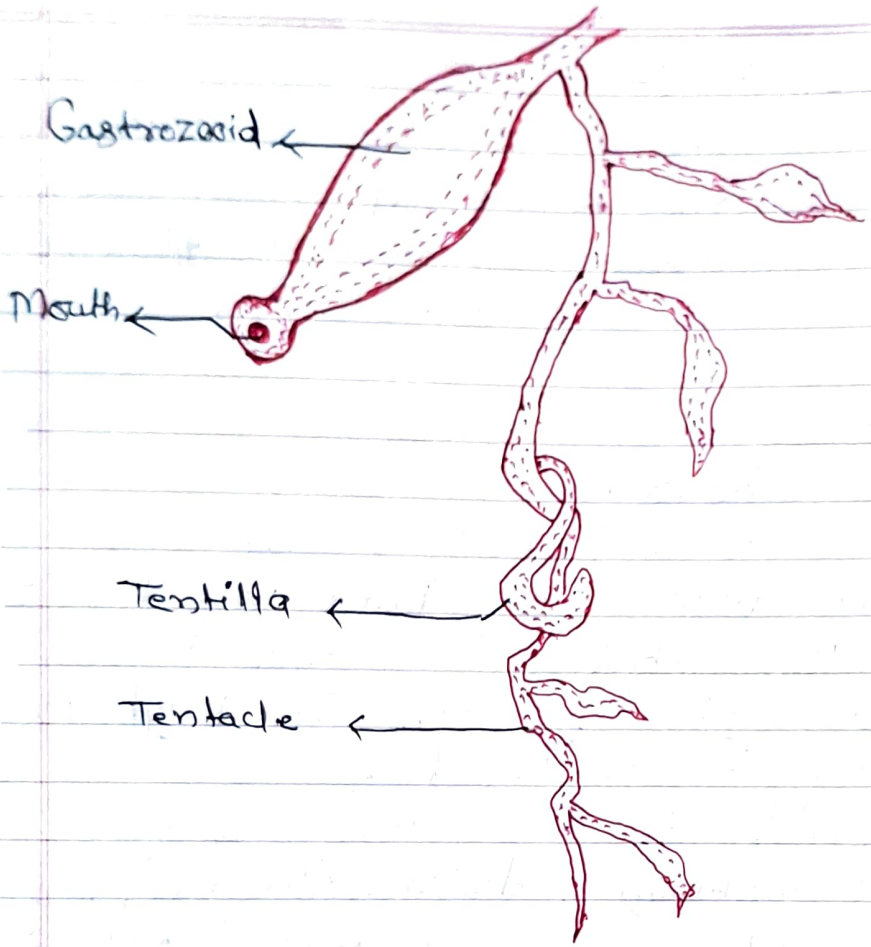

Fig :- Gastrozooid with tentacle & tentilla.

ii) DACTYLOZOOIDS :-

- Protective zooids of the colony.
- Elongated structure similar to gastrozooids but lacks mouth.

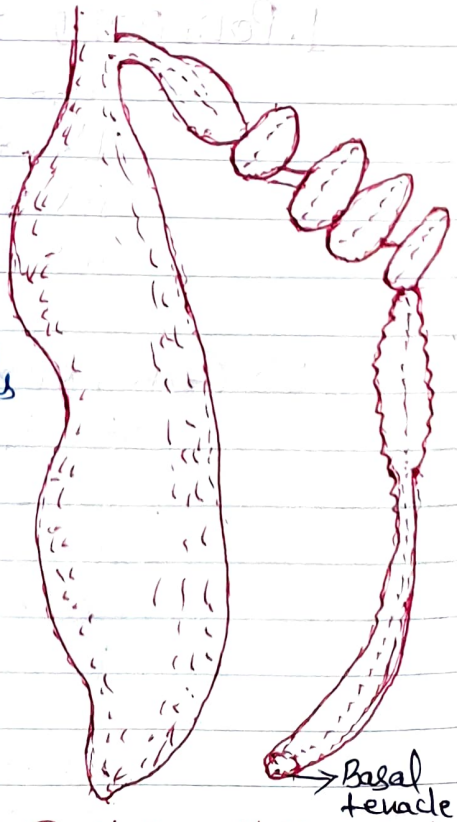

Fig :- Dactylozooid & tentacles

iii) GONOZOOIDS :-

- These are reproductive zooids also known as blastostyles.
- These lacks mouth and tentacles.
- These reproduced asexually to form medusae.
- These bears grapes like clusters of gonopore.
- In some form like physalia, an elongated structure gonopalpon is present.

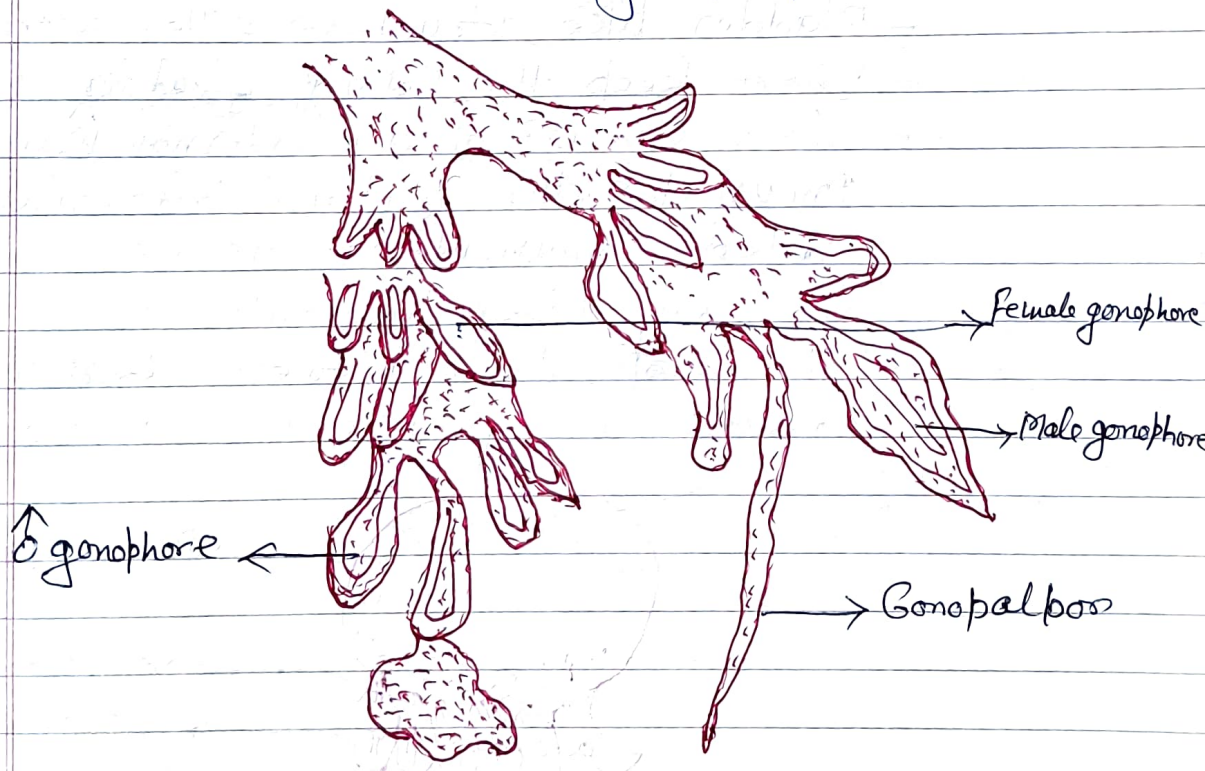

Fig:- Gonodendron with gonopalpon and male and female gonophore.

2. MEDUSOID ZOOIDS :-

These includs

a) swimming bell
b) Pneumatophores
c) Bracts and d) gonophores.